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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

As indicated below, Applicant is amending Claims 52–60, 65–73, and 78–86 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 61–64, 74–77 and 87 remain as previously presented.

1.–51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data, the method comprising:

providing a management software component ~~that operates~~ operating on a first network device;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component ~~that operate~~ operating on at least a second network device, each of the media software components being communicatively coupled to a storage device storing data;

selecting a media software component from among the plurality of media software components using the management software component;

controlling the selected media software component using the management software component;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least one software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

recording a physical address indicating a location of the data on the storage device using the at least one software module ~~which comprises~~ comprising an indexing software module configured to record [[a]] the physical address on the storage device.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second

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software module which comprises comprising a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises comprising at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device and physical media of the storage device using the second software module which comprises comprising a library software module configured to control the physical media of the storage device.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using the management software component which comprises comprising at least a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the storage device.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the second software module which comprises comprising an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the second software module which comprises comprising an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising managing system processes using the second software module which comprises comprising a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using the second software module which comprises comprising a media usage software module configured to track usage of the storage device.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software

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modules, and the storage device using the second software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the client software component operates on a third network device.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the selected media software component.

65. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data, the method comprising:

providing a management software component ~~that operates~~ operating on a first network device of a plurality of network devices;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component, the media software components being communicatively coupled to a storage device storing data, the media software components being further capable of controlling backups to the storage device;

selecting a media software component from among the plurality of media software components using the management software component;

controlling the selected media software component using the management software component;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least one

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software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

recording a physical address of a location of the data on the storage device using the at least one software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ an indexing software module configured to record [[a]] the physical address on the storage device.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component ~~which comprises comprising~~ at least a second software module configured to control, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component ~~which comprises comprising~~ at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device and physical media of the storage device using the second software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ a library software module configured to control the physical media of the storage device.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using the management software component ~~which comprises comprising~~ at least a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the storage device.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the second software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the second software module ~~which~~

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comprises comprising an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising managing system processes using the second software module ~~which comprises~~ comprising a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using the second software module ~~which comprises~~ comprising a media usage software module configured to track usage of the storage device.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using the second software module ~~which comprises~~ comprising a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the client software component operates on a third network device.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the selected media software component.

78. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data, the method comprising:

providing a management software component ~~that operates~~ operating on a first computing device in a network, the management software component controlling a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to

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the management software component, the media software components being communicatively coupled to at least one backup device storing data;

providing a client software component that controls backups of any computing device, the client software component communicatively coupled to the management software component and the media software components;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device using the media software components, which control the at least one backup device each of the media software components comprising at least one software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device;

recording a physical address of a location of the data on the backup device using the at least one software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ an indexing software module configured to record [[a]] the physical address on the backup device; and

operating at least one of either the media software components or the client software components on a second computing device in the network.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device using the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the at least one backup device using the second software module ~~which comprises comprising~~ a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the at least one backup device.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device using the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device, and controlling physical media of the at least one backup device using the second software module

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which comprises comprising a library software module configured to control the physical media of the at least one backup device.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising coordinating usage of the at least one backup device using the management software component which comprises comprising at least a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the at least one backup device.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the second software module which comprises comprising an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the second software module which comprises comprising an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising managing system processes using the second software module which comprises comprising a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising tracking usage of the at least one backup device using the second software module which comprises comprising a media usage software module configured to track usage of the at least one backup device.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising coordinating transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the at least one backup device using the second software module which comprises comprising a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the at least one backup device.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the indexing software module.